

Serial No.: 10/729,285

Docket No.: KCC-15,484.1

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims has not changed, and the total number of claims has decreased.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants amended Claims 1 and 11 to recite a central longitudinal hump, an annular elevated ring surrounding the central longitudinal hump, and recessed elongated ring between the annular elevated ring and the central longitudinal hump. Claim 22 has been canceled. Support for this Amendment can be found, for example, at page 23, lines 18-26. No new matter has been added to the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 7, and 9-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pike et al., EP 06653 15, in view of Alper et al., U.S. Patent 6,024,822, is respectfully traversed.

Neither Pike et al. nor Alper et al., alone or in combination, disclose or suggest applying radiofrequency energy to activate a binder material and deforming an absorbent web including the activated binder material against a molding surface to impart a shape including a central longitudinal hump, an annular elevated ring surrounding the central longitudinal hump, and a recessed elongated ring between the annular elevated ring and the central longitudinal hump. Pike et al. discloses thermoforming nonwoven webs, but does not disclose or suggest the recited structure imparted by Applicants' claimed invention. Alper et al. does not disclose any such shaping of nonwoven webs.

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Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claims 4, 5, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pike et al., EP 0665315, in view of Alper et al., U.S. Patent 6,024,822, and further in view of Scott, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0032421, is respectfully traversed. Claims 4, 5, and 8 depend from amended Claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above. Scott, Jr. et al. also does not disclose or suggest deforming absorbent cellulosic fiber webs to form a three-dimensional shape.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not resolved in this response, Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully requests early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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